



# Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Pilot

## *City of Columbia, SC*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

**EPA's** Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

## BACKGROUND

Columbia is the State of South Carolina's largest city by population (just over 110,000 residents) and land area. The City has a 46 percent minority population, and 21 percent live below the poverty level. Abandoned or underutilized properties in the City include former steel fabrication plants, rail yards and rail spurs, cotton mills and warehouses. Known and perceived environmental contamination have restrained private sector restoration, and continues to hamper the full economic use of the City's resources. Columbia, jointly with the City of Sumter, was designated as an Empowerment Zone. Columbia is a Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot.

## BCRLF OBJECTIVES

The City's BCRLF goal is to enhance community involvement, create jobs, and transform Columbia into a thriving community bustling with 24-hour residential, commercial, and retail activities. The BCRLF is seen as a catalyst for redevelopment through the removal of environmental contamination and barriers, and as a tool to encourage public-private partnerships in brownfields redevelopment. The BCRLF will give special emphasis to sites identified by

## PILOT SNAPSHOT



*City of Columbia,  
South Carolina*

**Date of Announcement:**  
May 25, 1999

**Amount:** \$500,000

**BCRLF Target Area:**  
Sites identified by the  
Brownfields Assessment  
Demonstration Pilot and sites  
with in the Empowerment  
Zone

### Contacts:

Columbia Development  
Corporation  
(803) 988-8040

Region 4 Brownfields  
Coordinator  
(404) 562-8661

Visit the EPA Region 4 Brownfields web site at:  
[www.epa.gov/region4/wastepps/brownfpgs/bf.htm](http://www.epa.gov/region4/wastepps/brownfpgs/bf.htm)

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts,  
additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and  
publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

the Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot and in Empowerment Zone areas.

## **FUND STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS**

The City, serving as the lead agency, will contract with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control to obtain assistance in carrying out its site management responsibilities. The City's Community Development Department, with an extensive history of managing similar revolving loan funds, such as the Commercial Revolving Loan Fund, the Housing Revolving Loan Fund, and Community Development Block Grants funds, will serve as fund manager.

## **LEVERAGING**

The City will make efforts to attract private investment to BCRLF projects. Similar loan funds in Columbia have led to a 4:1 ratio of private to public dollars. The existence of other Federal redevelopment programs, including the EPA Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot and the establishment of a HUD Empowerment Zone in the Cities of Columbia and Sumter, also will complement the BCRLF. In addition, the City will couple the BCRLF with its Commercial Revolving Loan Fund and CDBG funds to address cleanup and development goals.

---

*Use of BCRLF Pilot funds must be in accordance with CERCLA, and all CERCLA restrictions on use of funding also apply to BCRLF funds.*

---